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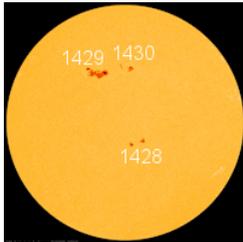
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Current Conditions

Solar wind
 speed: **293.0** km/sec
 density: **5.8** protons/cm³
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at 0722 UT

X-ray Solar Flares
 6-hr max: **C7** 0253 UT Mar08
 24-hr: **C7** 0253 UT Mar08
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at: 0700 UT

Daily Sun: 08 Mar 12

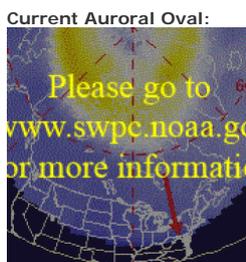


Big sunspot 1429 poses a continued threat for X-class solar flares. Credit: SDO/HMI

Sunspot number: 102
[What is the sunspot number?](#)
 Updated 07 Mar 2012

Spotless Days
 Current Stretch: 0 days
 2012 total: 0 days (0%)
 2011 total: 2 days (<1%)
 2010 total: 51 days (14%)
 2009 total: 260 days (71%)
 Since 2004: 821 days
 Typical Solar Min: 486 days
 Updated 07 Mar 2012

The Radio Sun
 10.7 cm flux: **136** sfu
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated 07 Mar 2012



Switch to: [Europe](#), [USA](#), [New Zealand](#), [Antarctica](#)
 Credit: NOAA/POES

Planetary K-index
 Now: Kp= **1** quiet
 24-hr max: Kp= **6** storm
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)

Interplanetary Mag. Field
 B_{total}: **7.4** nT
 B_z: **3.8** nT north
[explanation](#) | [more data](#)
 Updated: Today at 0757 UT

Coronal Holes: 08 Mar 12

What's up in space

Metallic photos of the sun by renowned photographer Greg Piepol bring together the best of art and science. Buy one or a whole set. They make a stellar gift.



GEOMAGNETIC STORM UPDATE: A CME propelled toward Earth by yesterday's X5-class solar flare is expected to reach our planet on March 8th at 0625 UT (+/- 7 hr). Analysts at the Goddard Space Weather Lab, who prepared [the CME's forecast track](#), say the impact could spark a strong geomagnetic storm. Sky watchers at all latitudes should be alert for auroras. **Aurora alerts:** [text](#), [phone](#).

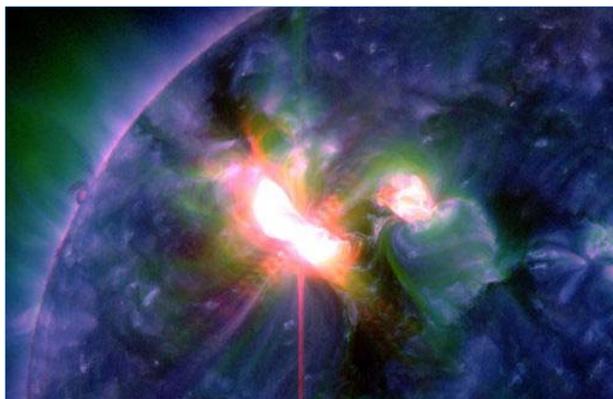
Mild geomagnetic activity is already [underway](#) following a lesser CME impact on March 7th. Shortly after the cloud arrived, a burst of Northern Lights appeared over the US-Canadian border. Shawn Malone photographed the display from the shores of Lake Superior:



"I was lucky to catch this brilliant outburst of aurora activity that was very active for close to an hour," says Malone, who has also made a [time-lapse video](#) of the display. "The aurora had no problem shining through the moonlit skies."

more images: [from Eric Frigon](#) of Banff National Park , Alberta, Canada; [from John Welling](#) of Ashland, Wisconsin; [from Justin Phillips](#) of New Auburn, Wisconsin; [from Truls Tiller](#) of Tromsø, Norway; [from Stephen Voss](#) of Sandy Point, New Zealand; [from Olivier Du Tré](#) of Cochrane, Alberta; [from Manu Keggenhoff](#) of Jake's Corner, Yukon, Canada; [from Ed Stockard](#) of Sun Mt Lodge, Methow Valley, Washington

MAJOR SOLAR FLARE (UPDATED): Big sunspot AR1429 has unleashed another major flare. This one is the strongest yet, an X5-class eruption on March 7th at 00:28 UT. NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory recorded the extreme UV flash:



This eruption hurled a bright CME into space. [show here](#) in a movie from the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory. Analysts at the Goddard Space Weather Lab estimate that the CME will reach Earth on March 8th at 0625 UT (+/- 7 hr), possibly triggering a strong-to-severe geomagnetic storm. An [animated forecast track](#) shows the progression of the fast-moving cloud.

Thursday, Mar. 8, 2012

archives

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Takin "U" of UF

A movie of the sun.